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COMBINATION COSMETIC PURSE AND DISPLAY PACKAGE

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a cosmetic case or purse, which also
5 may be utilized as a point-of-display sales package.

Background of the Invention

Many cosmetic and beauty care items are sold in packages mounted from point-of-purchase display racks in which a forwardly projecting hook receives a plurality of such packages mounted thereon via an opening through a portion of the package itself. Generally, these packages take the form of a cardboard backing imprinted with advertising indicia or descriptive contents over which a clear bubble pack is formed displaying the contents therein. Once purchased, the packaging is torn away and discarded and the contents, e.g., cosmetics or personal care accessories, placed in the purchaser's purse or cosmetic case constructed especially for such purpose. Such items include lipsticks, makeup, nail care files and the like.

Obviously, other articles are sold in this manner and the present invention relates to a device in which not only the aforementioned cosmetics and personal care items can be sold and displayed but for practical purposes almost any type of article. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to cosmetic and personal care items and the term "cosmetic case" in its broadest sense refers to a case or holding package that can be used for any relevant article or articles.

The cosmetic cases referred to in the present invention normally take the form of a cloth, plastic or leather-like container of a longitudinal overall shape and having an interior compartment or compartments primarily formed by sewing, sealing or otherwise attaching
5 opposed side panels at their top edges and one side edge in a sealing relationship so that articles may be placed and held conveniently within the pouch-type interior provided by such configuration. Preferably, one of the longitudinal sides provides for an opening and which opening may be normally resealed by any convenient mechanism such as a slide fastener,
10 zipper, snaps or springs. Normally the cosmetic case or purse is opaque, that is, not translucent or transparent, such that the case must be opened to view the contents in the interior pouch. On the other hand, the above referred to point-of-purchase and display packages are generally provided with a transparent or translucent front package face so that the contents therein can
15 be easily viewed. Other than the aforementioned fact regarding visibility and that the packages are provided with a top opening through which they may be suspended from the forwardly projecting hook, the display packages may take almost any size, shape or configuration and are generally discarded after the contents thereof have been purchased and removed for use.

It would be immeasurably convenient, however, if an aesthetically acceptable point-of-purchase display package could be additionally used as a cosmetic case or purse which could accommodate not only the item or items purchased by the consumer but other convenient
5 items as well that may be purchased at a later time or prior thereto. Accordingly, the primary object of the present invention is to provide a point-of-display sales package, which additionally serves as a cosmetic case or purse.

These and other objects of the present invention are
10 accomplished by the provision of a generally elongated sales display package having opposed generally flexible side panels positioned in face-to-face relationship to each other and including sealed top and side edges to form a interior space between the panels accessible by an opening provided by an unsealed side edge preferably along one of the longitudinal edges
15 thereof. It should be pointed out that normal configuration of such a combination cosmetic purse and display package would be rectangular having opposed upper and lower edges connected by a side edge wherein the opposite side edge has a pair of side panel edges serving to form the opening into the pouch or interior portion of the purse. In addition thereto,

one of the upper edges is provided with an extension through which an opening to receive the display hook is formed. Such extension is formed in such a manner that it may be easily removed from the upper edge of the combined purse and display package such that the final configuration would
5 not indicate the original previous use as a display package when utilized as a purse after the purchase of such item.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention shall become apparent as the description thereof proceeds when considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

Description of the Drawings

In the drawings which illustrate the best mode presently contemplated for carrying out the present invention:

Fig. 1 shows the combined package and purse of the present
5 invention displayed from a hook in turn mounted to a pegboard assembly;

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of the embodiment shown in
Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the
body extension may be removed;

10 Fig. 4 is a front elevational view showing the combined
package of Fig. 2 with the body extension removed;

Fig. 5 is a top sectional view along the line 5-5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged partial sectional view of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing how the purse assembly or
15 container may be closed by operation of a slide fastener to sealingly engage
the two opposed edges thereof;

Fig. 8 is a front sectional view of a portion of the closed
cosmetic purse;

Fig. 9 is a top view taken along the line 9-9 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is an enlarged view of a portion of Fig. 9 showing the internal or secondary seal that may be provided for the purse in a closed position;

Fig. 11 is a view similar to Fig. 10 but showing the secondary
5 seal in an open position;

Fig. 12 is a front perspective view similar to Fig. 1 but showing a modified form of the invention wherein the body extension is removably detachable from the main portion of the purse via a sealed panel that is removed by cutting as illustrated in Fig. 13;

10 Fig. 13 is a view similar to Fig. 12 showing the removal process thereof;

Fig. 14 is a front elevational view of another embodiment of the invention in which a lock is provided such that the openable side edge cannot be easily tampered with prior to purchase of the package;

15 Fig. 15 is a sectional view along the line 15-15 of Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a partial elevational view viewed from line 16-16 of Fig. 14;

Fig. 17a is a view similar to Fig. 16 but showing an initial step in inserting the locking member in place;

Fig. 17b is a view similar to Fig. 16 but showing an intermediate step in the insertion of the locking member;

Fig. 17c is a view similar to Fig. 16 but showing the locking member fully positioned;

5 Fig. 18 is a partial top view of the openable side edge in an open position and being closed by a slide member;

Fig. 19 is a view similar to Fig. 18 but showing the openable side edge closed with the slide member positioned adjacent to the combination tactile lock position sensor and stop;

10 Fig. 20 is a front elevational view that illustrates still another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 21 is an enlarged partial view of Fig. 20; and

Fig. 22 is a side view of Fig. 21.

Description of the Invention

Turning now to the drawings and particularly Figs. 1 and 7 thereof, the combination cosmetic purse and display package 10 is depicted. Such includes a purse portion 12 from which an extension panel 14 extends
5 that in turn is provided with an opening 16 particularly adapted to receive the forwardly extending rod 18 of a display rod system 20. The purse or cosmetic case portion 12 includes front and rear sidewalls or panels 22 and 24 respectively which are disposed in superposed position with respect to each other and connected generally by heat fusion to each other at their
10 peripheral top and bottom edges 26 and 28 and one side edge 30—the right such side edge 30 being depicted in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

The panels 22, 24 are preferably composed of flat sheets of a plastic resin such as polyvinyl chloride that is somewhat soft and pliable yet imparts transparent characteristics such that the contents therein may be
15 easily viewed when desired. The opposite longitudinal side edge 32 (the left side edge in Fig. 1) forms an opening 34 through which the contents of the articles both displayed and later carried for use in the interior pocket 25 of the package may be retrieved. Such opening 34 is, in effect, formed by the terminal portions 36 and 38 of the top and bottom sidewalls or panels 22, 24

respectively. Such terminal portions or edges 36, 38 may additionally be provided with a closure assembly 40 in essence formed by opposed longitudinally extending shaped beads 42 and 44 respectively running the length of the left hand side edge of the panels as viewed in Fig. 1.

5 As best shown in Fig. 6, the running bead 42 on the top panel or sidewall 22 is provided with a pair of downwardly extending fingers 46 that are adapted to extend into the pockets 48 of a similarly shaped pair of fingers 50 formed on bead 44 but extending upwardly rather than downwardly as the case with the fingers 46. When these beads 42, 44 are
10 pressed together, they interconnect thus forming the primary closure assembly 40. A slide fastener 52 is provided to incorporate convenience and form a positive mechanism by which the beads may be pushed together into a closed position or separated to form an open position. Obviously, other mechanisms may be provided to form the primary closure assembly 40 such
15 as cooperating snaps longitudinally spaced along the side edges 36, 38 or even a conventional zipper system or cooperating Velcro hook and loop strips. The overall concept of a combination cosmetic purse and display package 10, however, is to present a generally low cost yet visually acceptable and operable product, and the sliding bead mechanisms 42, 44

meet such criteria. Also when cooperating beads are utilized to form the closure assembly, they may take other configurations than those described above.

In addition, a secondary closure system 60 may be provided, if
5 desired, and such as best shown in Fig. 6 comprises a generally U-shaped bead 62 formed on bottom sidewall or panel 24 and having spaced fingers 64 adapted to be received within a somewhat similarly shaped bead 66 provided with laterally spaced U-shaped openings 68 formed on upper
10 sidewall 22 and adapted to receive the fingers 64. By simply pressing these members or secondary beads 66 and 62 together, a secondary albeit less positive sealing effect is brought about between the sidewalls 22 and 24.

In order to utilize the device 10 of the present invention in its initial roll as a sales display package, one or both of the panels 22, 24 is provided with an upwardly extending extension panel 14 which is connected
15 to the upper edge 26 of the purse by a weakened line 70 which may comprise perforations 72. Such weakened line 70 should be disposed above the area that effects sealing between the sidewalls or panels 22, 24 at the upper edge 26 and should not interfere with such seal when the weakened line is, in effect, removed either by tearing as shown in Fig. 3 or by scissors as shown

in Fig. 13 when the weakened line, in effect, is a material panel 74. Within the extension panel 14, an opening 74 of any desired configuration to accept the mounting hook 18 is provided. It should be pointed out that in some instances, it might be unnecessary or undesirable to remove the extension
5 panel 14 from the purse 12—such decision being left entirely up to the purchasing consumer.

The package 10 may be decorated in various fashions as by imprinting either the front or back panels or sidewalls 22, 24 or both with a decorative design and in some cases can either be translucent or function as a
10 visual barrier. It is, however, a desirable feature of the present invention that one of the panels or sidewalls 22, 24 be at least translucent and possibly transparent such that when that panel is displayed outermost when the package is being utilized as a display package will enable the merchandise contained therein to be easily viewed by the purchasing consumer. Also and
15 as shown by the drawings, e.g., Fig. 6, in some cases it may be desirable to add a foam or other material pad 80 between the panels 22 and 24 by, in effect, either attaching such pad 80 to the inside surface of one of the panels or sandwiching such between the inside surface of one of the panels and a secondary or intermediate panel 82 provided for such purpose. The

secondary or intermediate panel as well as the pad 80 may then be captured in place by the mechanism by which the terminal edges 36, 38 and 40 are sealed together--one such mechanism being a heat-sealing of the plastic sheets together. The purpose of the pad is to give some bulk and give some
5 added flexibility to the purse mechanism to simulate a normal cloth-type purse of a more expensive nature. The pad 80 may also supply decoration as when the panels or sidewalls 22, 24 are transparent.

Turning now to Fig. 14, several additional features of the present combination purse and display package will be evident. Inasmuch
10 as the slide 52 in use is repeatedly moved back and forth along the terminal portions 36, 38 of the top and bottom panels to open and close the opening 34 as desired, some care is advisable considering that the materials forming the various package components are generally pliable plastic sheet material such that excess force on the slide 52 or other areas will not over time eventually
15 cause rupture or partial separation of panel portions 22, 24 which form the fused edges 26, 28 which in turn partly serve to form the interior pocket 25 in which the articles to be transported/displayed are housed. Accordingly, areas of the panel portions 36, 38 adjacent the upper fused edge 26 and the

lower edge 28 and the opening 40 are, in effect, spot fused together to form upper and lower tear stops 90, 92 respectively.

As with most slides, the slide 52 is directional, that is, the slide opens or separates the edges 36, 38 as it moves upwardly (towards the top of the drawing in Fig. 20) and closes, that is, urges, the edges 36, 38 together when moved in the opposite direction. In order to prevent the slide from over contacting upper edge 26, the upper tear stop 90 is located in the path of the slide 52 and such slide preferably contacts tear stop 90 by riding up slightly over the upstanding peripheral ridge 94 thereof. The ridge 94 is formed when the panels 22, 24 are fused together at that location by the action of a heated die. Thus when fully opening the package, the user can sense, that is, feel, a frictional resistance to the slide when it contacts the tear stop 90 and utilize that input to forgo further slide movement. Similarly, the lower tear strip is located adjacent the lower edge 38 and the lower portion of the opening 40.

It is desirable to keep the package 10 locked while displayed for purchase so that the merchandise housed therein and readily viewable due to the see thru characteristics of the package cannot be easily removed prior to purchase. To accomplish such, a unique locking system 100 has been

provided. Such system includes a locking member 102 that prevents the slide from any substantial longitudinal movement and thus prevents the edges 36, 38 from being opened. The locking member may comprise an intermediate slender pin-shaped member or shaft 104 having integral T-shaped heads 106, 108 at opposite terminal ends thereof.

The shaft extends through both edges 36, 38 at a point adjacent the inner or proximal face 52a of the slide and is preferably positioned thereat by a puncturing tool 110 having a hollow tube 112 with a sharpened end 114 in which the locking member is positioned in a flattened disposition.

Thereafter, the edges 36, 38 are pierced as shown in Fig. 17b and a plunger (not shown) mounted to slide within the tube 112 is utilized to force the upper head 106 beyond the upper extent of the tube end 114 so that the head 106 by reason of elastic memory reassumes a T-shaped orientation with respect to the shaft 104. Thereafter, the tube 112 is withdrawn, thus capturing and positioning the locking member to the edges 36, 38 by means of the holes 116, 118 formed therethrough by the puncturing/positioning tool. As the tool moves through the plastic sheets that form edges 36, 38, the tool forms holes 120, 122 therethrough and forms an upstanding crater or

ridge 124 as the tool passes through edge 36 at the upper or outer surface thereof.

Similar structures and puncturing tools are utilized to attach buttons to clothing in lieu of sewing. In addition, other tools with a
5 moderately sharpened end could be used to penetrate the panel edges 36, 38 and to form the upset material ridge 124 that serves as the secondary or tactile lock.

This somewhat circular reverse crater thus presents surface portions slightly above the upper surface of edge 36 and forms a secondary
10 or sensory stop over which the slide 52 must pass after the shaft 104 of the locking member is cut by any suitable means such as scissors, nail clipper, etc. and then the locking member fully removed from the edges 36, 38. In other words, by positioning the locking member adjacent the slide when the slide is in the position where the edges 36, 38 are closed together prevents
15 the slide from being opened for unauthorized access to the package interior as when on display at the store. Once purchased and the locking member removed, then the slide can freely move to its open position.

In moving to such open position, the slide does encounter some slight resistance as it contacts the crater 124 which resistance can be felt by

the person operating the slide. The crater thus acts as a positioning device or partial stop to keep the slide closed from accidental opening and as a sensing means that provides a tactile feedback to the operator such that she/he recognizes when the stop is being overcome by the slide in the opening
5 procedure. Similarly when the operator is moving the slide to the closed position, the opposite is true, that is, the slide passing over the crater warns the operator that the end of the possible slide travel is approaching and or completed and further closure force is unnecessary.

While there is shown and described herein certain specific
10 structure embodying this invention, it will be manifest to those skilled in the art that various modifications and rearrangements of the parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the underlying inventive concept and that the same is not limited to the particular forms herein shown and described.